

NEW GERMAN NOTE. NATIONS INCREASE NAVIES. HITS AVIATION SERVICE. CONDUCTORS STATE THEIR SIDE. NICARAGUA PACT RATIFIED. WILL ABIDE BY LAW.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN LUSITANIA CASE: COMING.

Expected in Washington Tuesday—German Press Says Country Will Not Allow Rights to Be Curtailed.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Final instructions for Ambassador von Bernstorff with reference to the submarine question were drafted today by the American bureau of the foreign office and submitted to Foreign Secretary von Jagow for approval. The statement is expected to be in Washington by Tuesday.

The German press is again taking a marked interest in the Lusitania case submarine question. The Cologne Gazette today says: "We will let nobody curtail our rights nor will we bother about the safety of reckless-crazy neutrals traveling on English ships." This is expressive of the general sentiment.

IDENTICAL WITH LUSITANIA CASE.

Ancona Sinking in Same Category and No Settlement Can Come Until Austria Agrees to Abide by International Law.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The submarine controversy took on a new complication today when the State department announced that the Ancona case came in the same category with the Lusitania case. There can be no complete settlement until Austria pledges herself to obey the rules of international law.

MAKE READY FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Many Bills Passed—Two Quart Bill Goes to Governor, After Amendment.

Columbia, Feb. 19.—The free conference report on the two-quart-a-month bill was adopted by the house this afternoon after considerable debate. The vote was 63 for and 33 against the bill, which is now ready for the senate.

Main features of the free conference amendments were the striking out of the insular feature requiring labeling of valises containing intoxicants and the forbidding of treating at one's residence.

The house and senate this morning passed a large number of bills and the indications point to an adjournment sine die sometime tonight. The conciliatory measure of Gov. Manning passed today.

PICK LORIMER JURORS.

Slow Progress Made in Choice of Men to Try Former Senator.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Questions relative to their political views were the main ones asked veniremen at the trial of former Senator Lorimer today for conspiracy to wreck the La Salle Street bank. Only seven men were tentatively accepted today. The work was so slow it is believed that the taking of evidence will not begin before the latter part of next week.

PROVIDES A LICENSE.

House Passes Senate Insurance Measure.

Columbia, Feb. 19.—The house passed the senate bill providing for the licensing of insurance brokers by requiring the payment of a fee of \$25, a bond of \$5,000 and the payment of an additional fee of 4 per cent. upon the premiums on policies of companies not licensed in this State.

The bill is endorsed by the insurance commissioner, to whom each broker must submit an annual report of transactions made. Only residents of the State are allowed to be licensed brokers.

WOULD MEAN BETTER PAY.

Threat to Offer Amendments to Judiciary Bill.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Senator Tillman today served notice of his intention to offer certain amendments to the bill for codifying and revising the laws on the judiciary mentioned in the Washington correspondence of The News and Courier of Thursday.

One of these amendments will fix the salaries of the district attorneys of two South Carolina districts at \$4,200 each, instead of \$3,500 as provided in the bill, and another will restore to the clerks some of the emoluments they would be deprived of by the measure.

GREAT BRITAIN'S SEA FORCE FOUR TIMES THAT OF UNITED STATES.

Twice as Strong as Combined Fleets of Germany and Austria—France Also Has Added Greatly to Naval Strength—Japan's Fleet Growing.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The British navy today is approximately twice as strong as the combined fleets of Germany and Austria, while the Teutonic combination has just about double the sea fighting force of the United States, according to information in the possession of the navy department. The facts were disclosed to the house naval committee today by Capt. Josiah McKean of the staff of the chief of operations.

Capt. McKean also said the French navy was from 15 to 20 per cent. stronger than the American, according to latest information. He explained that these were rough estimates and that charts showing the specific relations of the various navies would be submitted later by Rear Admiral Benson, the chief of operations.

So far as is definitely known, the Japanese building programme adopted several years ago and which will not be completed for several years to come, provides for a modern fleet of eight dreadnoughts and eight battle cruisers. It was possible, he added, that additional building was in progress as all nations but the United States had building policies.

On the strength of the known programme, however, Capt. McKean said, Japan would have but 16 capital ships when the 17 American dreadnoughts built, building or authorized were commissioned.

The witness disagreed with Rear Admiral Grant, chief of submarines, as to the advisability of abandoning the present smaller submarine types in favor of the 800 ton boats. He believed 30 of the large boats should be built and attached to the fleets, but that smaller ones should operate from

intervals along the coasts. Neither the senate nor house military committee considered preparedness measures today, the house committee having decided to take up the work of drafting its federalized National Guard bill next Monday for continuous discussion until completed while the senate committee was diverted to other questions temporarily.

The house committee received, however, a statement from Brig. Gen. William Crozier, chief of army ordnance, giving his views on the Tillman bill to prohibit the disclosure of military secrets. As drawn, Gen. Crozier said, the act was too sweeping and would forbid giving out information of any character whether confidential or not. He thought this unwise.

NEWSPAPER MEN VINDICATED.

House Committee Says They Are not Lobbyists—Cotton Mills Must Pay Weekly.

Columbia, Feb. 19.—The senate this afternoon passed the bill requiring all cotton mills to pay off weekly and returned to the house for concurrence in the amendments.

The bill requiring the teaching of agriculture in the public schools was ordered ratified. Before taking recess this afternoon the senate killed all bills on the senate calendar. Among those measures thrown into the discard was the bill requiring a two-cent passenger rate in South Carolina.

The house unanimously adopted a resolution this afternoon vindicating the newspaper men reporting the legislative proceedings as being "lobbyists."

PAYS DEATH PENALTY.

Hans Schmidt, Slayer of Anna Mueller, Executed.

Ossining, Feb. 18.—Father Hans Schmidt, the priest who murdered his sweetheart, Anna Mueller, was put to death in the electric chair shortly before six o'clock this morning. He was one of the bravest men ever executed and the coolest person in the room when he was strapped to the chair. His last words were: "I send a hearty good-bye to my mother; my last thoughts are of her." He forgave all who had offended him, and asked forgiveness for himself. Three shocks were necessary to cause his death.

German Attacks Repulsed.

Paris, Feb. 19.—The repulse of two German attacks north of Biangy are reported according to the official statement. Other points are quiet.

SENATOR ROBINSON SAYS INEFFICIENCY HAS BEEN CONCEALED.

Presents Correspondence Between Head of Aviation Corps and Officer—Claims Crookedness in Investigation.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Sensational charges against the army aviation service with a demand for immediate investigation by congress were made today before the senate military committee by Senator Robinson of Arkansas. He declared that the service was "contemptibly inefficient" and that its head, Lieut. Col. Samuel Reber, not only was making no effort to improve it but deliberately was preventing the facts from reaching his superiors.

The senator appeared before the committee with a mass of data including photographic copies of letters which, he said, had been exchanged between Col. Reber and Capt. Arthur S. Cowan, commanding the aviation station at San Diego. At least part of this evidence was produced before the courtmartial at San Francisco which recently tried Lieut. Col. Lewis E. Goodier, judge advocate general of the Western department, accused of improperly altering certain charges filed by other officers against Capt. Cowan.

The committee will act Monday on Senator Robinson's resolution for an investigation. Senator Chamberlain, the chairman, declared that the charges should be investigated and expressed the opinion that the committee would order promptly a favorable report on the resolution. Some of the committeemen suggested that an investigating committee might go to San Francisco.

Col. Reber is stationed in the office of the chief signal officer at the war department and has direct charge of the aviation branch of the corps.

A letter presented to the committee purported to be from Col. Reber, head of the service to Capt. Cowan in charge at San Diego, under date

"I wish you would have your engineering department get me out some drawings for the size of sheets to be placed under the seats of aviators for alleged armor protection. I will have several of these plates made so we can say we have armored aeroplanes, not that I think it vitally essential, but in order that we can meet any charge that our machines are not armored."

Capt. Cowan, in a letter to Col. Reber, declared if the "service ever came under investigation by any one outside our own corps, it would be impossible to explain the rotten way in which the work has been handled."

Senator Robinson declared that the defective condition of the equipment of the aviation service at San Diego could be established beyond doubt, and that Col. Reber had instructed Capt. Cowan to keep it secret.

Col. Reber wrote Capt. Cowan, Senator Robinson said, June 21, 1915, saying: "I note in the weekly letter that a reference is made to the condition of the machines and motors. This information should not be made public."

HAS NOTHING TO SAY.

Capt. Cowan Declines to Talk of Robinson Charges.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 18.—"I have nothing to say," was the comment of Capt. Arthur S. Cowan, head of the signal corps aviation school, U. S. A., today when informed of the charges made by Senator Robinson against the aviation service.

INTRODUCES SOCIALIST BILL.

Would Provide Employment Bureau, Sickness Insurance and Old Age Pensions from Federal Government.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Unemployment insurance, sickness insurance and old age pensions are provided in a resolution introduced in the house by Meyer London, a Socialist member of New York. The resolution was referred to the labor committee. The measure appoints the secretary of labor chairman of a commission of five to work out the details. Other commissioners will be two representatives of labor and two employers. It also directs that in case the commission finds not sufficient employment to take care of the idle men they will be given work on the public domains.

Rome, Feb. 19.—Durazzo, the capital of Albania, is surrounded on three sides by the Austrians and its fall is imminent.

CONDUCTORS STATE THEIR SIDE.

CONTROVERSY OVER THE WHITE AUDIT SYSTEM.

In Reply to Mr. Kenly They Disclaim Any Intention of Effort to Dictate to Railroad—Declare They Would Aid in "Fair and Proper Audit."

Wilmington Star. Speaking for the general adjustment committee of the Order of Railway Conductors on the Atlantic Coast Line, Mr. W. M. Clark, third vice-president of the National organization, in a lengthy statement, made public in Wilmington yesterday morning, replies to a statement made last week to the conductors of the road by President J. R. Kenly regarding the White Audit system.

Denial is made that the trainmen are seeking to dictate the method under which the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company shall conduct its business and it is pointed out that the general adjustment committee has gone on record as recognizing the right of the management of the A. C. L. to inaugurate and maintain a system of auditing trials, and it is declared that the conductors have given assurance of their hearty co-operation in having a "fair and proper audit."

The text of circular 33, giving the details of the new audit system and the manner in which it shall be conducted is included in the statement. It is pointed out that the Southern Railway put in effect in July of last year an audit system for checking their conductors, conducted by bona fide conductors, but that this was not made effective until after the matter was fully discussed with representatives of the conductors, which it is stated was not done by the Coast Line. Objection is made to the White Audit system on the ground that it carries with it the opportunity for espionage and ostentation.

"In conclusion we wish to say," the statement concludes, "it is the policy of the Order of Railway Conductors to aid in a fair and proper audit."

Practically all of the higher officials of the Atlantic Coast Line were out of the city yesterday, but it is not thought that they will have any reply to make to the statement of the conductors now, as Judge William A. Chambers, of the Board of Mediation and Conciliation, will be in Wilmington tomorrow to use his good offices in bringing about a settlement of the controversy.

"We are simply marking time now until after Judge Chambers arrives tomorrow," said Mr. Clark last night. "We have presented our side of the question and shall have nothing more to say until there are further developments in the matter."

SAWYER BLEASE CANDIDATE?

Mayor Sawyer in Capital Talks With Blease Leaders, But Mum for Publication.

Columbia, Feb. 18.—That several prominent Blease leaders are urging Mayor Olin Sawyer, of Georgetown, to run for governor, is being talked around the legislature. The gossip is that these leaders believe they must get a man who has not heretofore made a race for any State office, and they consider Mayor Sawyer the one who is eligible.

Dr. Sawyer was in the city today and it is known that he saw several of the leaders while here. He declined to say anything at all on the matter for publication. Dr. Sawyer was formerly a member of the house from Georgetown and is now mayor of that city, having been elected a few months ago as a compromise candidate by both political factions in Georgetown.

NOTE FLOOD SITUATION.

Secretaries Redfield, Lane and Houston to Confer on Steps to be Taken.

Washington, Feb. 18.—President Wilson and his cabinet took official notice of the Mississippi flood situation today, and as a result government action to prevent or control similar situations in the future is expected soon.

After receiving an appeal for immediate federal assistance for persons in the inundated districts of the lower Mississippi river, the cabinet decided that Secretaries Redfield, Houston and Lane should confer on what steps should be taken. President Wilson later will recommend to congress some kind of legislation on the subject.

Restoration of water sheds of rivers is among the plans being considered, and the States directly concerned will be expected to co-operate with the government.

NICARAGUA PACT RATIFIED.

SENATE APPROVES TREATY WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

United States Acquires Perpetual Option on Canal Route and Hundred Year Lease for Naval Base at Bay of Fonseca at Cost of \$3,000,000.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The senate today by a vote of 55 to 18 ratified the long pending and persistently opposed Nicaraguan treaty, whereby the United States would acquire a perpetual option on the Nicaraguan canal route and a 99 year lease of a naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca for \$3,000,000.

Included in the ratification resolution was a provision declaring that the United States in obtaining the naval base does not intend to violate any existing rights in the Fonseca gulf of Costa Rica, Honduras and Salvador, which had protested against the proposed acquisition.

Five Democratic senators voted against the treaty. They were Chamberlain, Martine, Clark of Arkansas, Thomas and Vardaman. Republicans who voted against ratification were Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Gronna, Jones, Kenyon, Smith of Michigan, Nelson, Norris, Smith of Michigan, Smoot and Warren. Fifteen Republicans joined the administration forces in support of the treaty. They were Brandegee, Cole, Dillingham, DuPont, Fall, Gallinger, Harding, Lippitt, Lodge, McLean, Page, Poindexter, Sutherland, Wadsworth and Weeks.

Immediately after the senate had acted, Senator Chamorro, the Nicaraguan minister, said he would at once communicate with his government and that he expected ratification of the convention by his government would soon follow and exchanges made to put the treaty in force.

The treaty provides that the United States shall have exclusive proprietary rights in perpetuity for the construction and operation of an interoceanic canal through Nicaragua. Details of the terms are to be agreed upon whenever the United States expresses its intention to build the canal.

For the protection of the rights so obtained, the United States is granted a 99 year lease, with the privilege of renewal for another 99 years, of the Little Corn and Great Corn islands in the Caribbean. On the same terms the United States is granted a lease for a naval base, the site to be selected, on the Gulf of Fonseca. For these privileges the United States agrees to pay \$3,000,000 to Nicaragua.

The proviso added to the ratification resolution, calculated to satisfy protests of other Central American governments, is as follows:

"That whereas Costa Rica, Salvador and Honduras have protested against the ratification of said convention in the fear or belief that said convention might in some respect impair existing rights of said States; therefore, it is declared by the senate that in advising and consenting to the ratification of the said convention as amended such advice and consent are given with the understanding, to be expressed as a part of the instrument of ratification, that nothing in said convention is intended to affect any existing rights of any of the said named states."

Senator Clark of Arkansas led the Democratic opposition to the treaty while the Republican opposition was most vigorously asserted by Senators Borah and Smith of Michigan.

M'Laurin on Solons.

Says Most of Them Are O. K., But Some Need Attention.

Dowman, Feb. 18.—John L. McLaughlin, State warehouse commissioner, in a speech before several hundred farmers here today, praised the present general assembly now in session in Columbia. He said that a majority of the members of the legislature was composed of men who are doing good work and that they deserve the commendation of the people. He stated, however, that there were a few who should be looked after by the people.

BOMB WRECKS HOME.

Black Hand Plot Brings Damage in Fashionable Section of Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 19.—With a roar heard for miles a bomb exploded in the home of Modestino Mastrogiiovanni, an Italian banker, in the heart of a fashionable section of the Grand Boulevard this morning. Windows were broken for blocks around and the banker's three story home was completely wrecked. His family miraculously escaped injury. A damage of \$75,000 is reported. The deed is said to have been a "blackhand" plot.

GERMANY PROMISES NOT TO VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL RULES.

America Rejects Teutonic Theory—Will Not Accept as Legal Announced Intention of Sinking Armed Merchantmen Without Warning—Sweden Yields to Berlin's Wishes.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Germany's response to the latest request of the United States for assurance that submarine warfare will be conducted in accordance with principles of international law is expected to be a statement that assurances previously given in the Lusitania and Ancona cases had to do only with merchantmen and that the German government must feel free to sink its submarines which warn merchantmen will not be attacked. Furthermore, the Berlin force probably will ask the United States for its definition of defensive armament.

Indications of what the German reply may be are understood to have been given in informal conversation between state department officials and Teutonic diplomats since Germany and Austria announced their intention of sinking armed enemy merchantmen after February 29.

The United States today made its first formal declaration that it does not accept as legal the announced intention of the Teutonic powers when the State department sent to diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, for their information, notifications that this government considers that merchant ships have a right to carry defensive armament. In this connection it became known that the Swedish government had instructed its consular officers to advise all Swedish subjects preparing to embark on vessels of the entente allies of the warning given by Germany and Austria.

It is considered certain that the question of defining defensive armament will be the basis of lengthy negotiations with the central powers, beginning when the reply is received to the message outlining the views of the United States which Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, has sent his government. The response is not expected before the last of next week.

It was admitted at the state department today that the question of writing a formal note on the subject of the conduct of submarine warfare, after the complete German declaration and its appendix have been received, was under consideration. It is certain that Austria also will be supplied with the views of the United States.

Eleven days remain before German and Austrian submarine commanders begin to put into effect their new instructions unless the date for the opening of the new campaign is postponed. While the United States is said not to have asked for a postponement the German ambassador is believed to have called the attention of his government to the fact that the complete appendix forming the basis of the German declaration has not yet had time to reach the state department and for this reason a postponement would not be surprising.

Officials also are awaiting copies of the confidential instructions to attack submarines which the German government alleges have been given to the commanders of British merchant ships.

In this connection it was stated in German circles tonight that evidence in their possession led to the conclusion that all British merchant ships, with the possible exception of those in trans-Atlantic trade, had instructions to resist capture.

It was pointed out that the Clan MacTavish, sunk by the raider Moewe, the captor of the Appam, had fought with her guns until she went down. It also was declared that aboard the Appam was found a document containing instructions, "To all British born sea captains" and setting forth "that any submarine approaching a merchant vessel may be treated as hostile."

Secretary Lansing made it clear today that the arrangement under which defensively armed Italian ships had been permitted to leave American ports did not in any way require the United States to sacrifice any principle or tend to establish precedent. He said that the ships had been allowed to sail under a temporary arrangement.

St. Louis, Feb. 19.—Miss Louise Lansing of Jacksonville, a niece of the secretary of State, was married secretly to Louis Logsdon of Owensboro, Ky., two weeks ago after a courtship which lasted three days.